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Information Handbook 2001

57th LEGISLATURE

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About the cover:

Montana's transportation system has changed dramatically since 1937 when Shorty Shope produced the artwork for the highway map on the cover. Back then, the Montana Highway Department had an annual budget of less than $11 million and most of Montana's highways were gravel at best. As we enter the 21st Century, the Montana Department of Transportation oversees a modern transportation system that serves as Montana's economic and social lifeline to the rest of the US and the World.

November 2000

Members of the 57th Legislature,

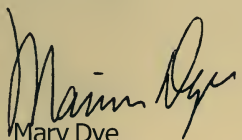
As we prepare for the 57th Montana Legislature, I'm proud to report MDT is an agency increasingly characterized by responsiveness and a healthy customer service orientation. Our emphasis on quality interactions with our customers and a firm commitment to delivering a quality program and quality projects are paying off and being noticed.

One clear example is delivery of federally-funded highway projects. Despite continued criticism, the record shows MDT's staff has done a remarkable job. We've built credibility and accountability into our processes, and we're delivering an ambitious program on a demanding schedule. I'm proud of this record, and you should be too. Construction is at an all-time high. We've never turned back a federal highway dollar, and we don't intend to.

We're now in the midst of assuming responsibility for thousands of miles of secondary roads following passage of SB 133 last session. This will free local governments to address other pressing transportation needs within their jurisdictions. This effort was conceived cooperatively, in response to public and official concerns, and is a great example of the progress that can be made when people put their heads and talents together.

This handbook provides a brief overview of the services we provide in fulfilling our mission. . . to serve the public by providing a transportation system and services that emphasize quality, safety, cost effectiveness, economic vitality and sensitivity to the environment.

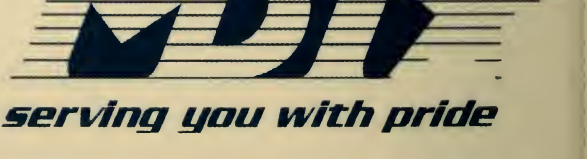
The staff at MDT looks forward to continuing this service to Montana and would be happy to respond to your questions or concerns. Please just let us know what's on your mind.



Marv Dye
Director of Transportation

MDT's Mission

To serve the public by providing a transportation system and services that emphasize quality, safety, cost effectiveness, economic vitality and sensitivity to the environment.



serving you with pride

I-15 near Sieben Flats
Photo by Verna Starz

THE INSIDE STORY

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Maps (back of handbook)
Intercity Passenger Transportation
Montana's Rail System
Montana's Highway System

Our Internet Address is:
www.mdt.state.mt.us

Fast Facts...

- √ Montana's share of the Interstate Syste is 1,191 miles.
- √ The 704 mile portion of MT 200 from th Idaho border to the North Dakota borde the longest signed highway in Montana.
- √ Montana's shortest on -system highway (of a mile) is Primary 65 in Flathead Cour
- √ MDT traffic statistics indicate that US 8 (Main Street) in Billings is the busiest hi way in Montana with an average daily traffic count of 48,170.
- √ Only California, Illinois, and Texas have more rural Interstate than Montana's 1,1 miles.
- √ Montana travelers have access to 59 re areas, with 11 of these located in city parl
- √ In 1998, Montana had more private and commercial vehicles per capita (1.11) th any other state.
- √ Montana has only 12 people per mile of public road, compared to 38 in Colorad and 177 in California.
- √ In FY 1999 MDT's Maintenance Divisio used 275,000 cubic yards of sand and 1. million gallons of deicer to plow and sar 2.7 million miles.
- √ Only 70 cents of every dollar raised fro state fuel and gross weight vehicle taxe is available for use by MDT.

Montana is larger than the 7 Northeastern states (see map above), yet has only 2.5% of the combined population of those states.

77% of Montana's Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) take place outside of our 14 urban areas. South Dakota comes in a close second with 77.4%.

Over 82% of all manufactured goods are moved in and out of Montana by truck.

Montana has 13 bus systems serving the general public; four of these are fixed route city bus systems and 9 are demand response systems, such as Helena Dial-A-Ride.

92% of Montana's agricultural products are shipped out of state by rail.

Montana has 14 state owned airports, 125 public use airports, and over 350 private use airports.

Transportation Commissioners

DISTRICT 1
Dan Larson
110 East Oak
Libby, MT 59923
Term expires 1-2003

Office: 295-4050
Home: 293-3304
Fax: 295-6402

DISTRICT 2
Shiell Anderson
748 Highway 89 N
Livingston, MT 59047
Term expires: 1-2005

Home: 222-1164

DISTRICT 3
Dan Rice
511 Central Ave W
Great Falls, MT 59404
Term expires: 1-2005

Office: 727-7500
Home: 452-5150
Fax: 454-1085

DISTRICT 4
Nancy Espy
PO Box 326
Broadus, MT 59317
Term expires 1-2003

Home/Fax: 436-2588

DISTRICT 5
Meredith Reiter
1780 Sylvan Lane
Billings, MT 59105
Term expires: 1-2005

Home: 245-7474
Office: 247-1208

District Administrators

Loran Frazier
District 1 - Missoula

PO Box 7039,Missoula, MT 59807
Office: 523-5802
e-mail: lfrazier@state.mt.us

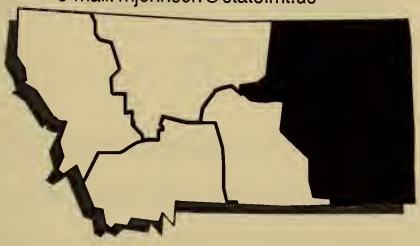
Jason Giard
District 2 - Butte

PO Box 3068,Butte, MT 59702
Office: 494-9625
e-mail: jgiard@state.mt.us

Michael Johnson
District 3 - Great Falls

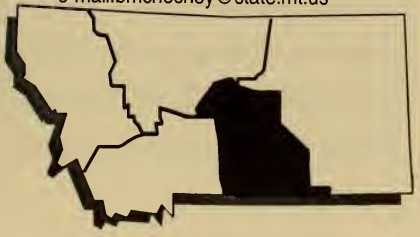
PO Box 1359, Great Falls, MT 59403
Office: 454-5887
e-mail: mjohnson@state.mt.us

Bill McChesney
District 4 - Glendive



PO Box 890, Glendive, MT 59330
Office: 233-3600
e-mail:bmchesney@state.mt.us

Bruce Barrett
District 5 - Billings



PO Box 20437, Billings, MT 59104
Office: 657-0210
e-mail: bbarrett@state.mt.us

Dave Manning Memorial Build
MDT Headquarters, Hele

Montana's transportation program is an es sential component of economic developmer and job creation. It provides the infrastructur necessary to support the growth and expansio of our economy.

MDT's diverse programs are working to gether to provide the best possible service t the people of Montana. This work is being ac complished by almost the same number of em ployees as ten years ago, in spite of additiona responsibilities in rail, transit, fuel tax, aeronau tics, traffic safety, and an expanded Federal sur face transportation program.

Strategic Initiatives

As a government agency, MDT is committed to being accountable and responsive in the way it serves the citizens of Montana. As a result, the department is developing a new strategic plan that links performance measurement to business operations. The department has identified twelve strategic initiatives that they will use to guide business decisions over the coming years. These include:

Financial :

1. Maximize revenue streams and explore innovative financing options
2. Deliver a cost-effective transportation program to the citizens of Montana
3. Develop a consistent, statewide project programming methodology

Customer:

1. Provide a safe and efficient intermodal transportation system
2. Maximize external customer satisfaction
3. Enhance the social, economic and environmental qualities of Montana

Internal Business:

1. Total commitment to continuous process improvement
2. Develop and sustain a quality culture
3. Foster effective communication

Learning & Growth:

1. Provide a safe and healthy workplace for employees
2. Optimize the MDT work environment to assure a qualified and stable workforce
3. Empower the customer (internal/external) to use information technology to enable them to conduct business as efficiently and effectively as possible

Director
Dave Galt
444-6201
dgalt@state.mt.us

Public Information

444-7205

Human Resources
Russ McDonald
444-6044
rmcdonald@state.mt.us

Administration

Accounting, Financial management, purchasing, fuel tax collection, word processing, office and computer support

Bill Salisbury 444-6023
wsalisbury@state.mt.us

Aeronautics

Registration of pilots and aircraft, coordination and supervision of aerial search & rescue operation, administer grants to fund airport improvements

Mike Ferguson 444-2506
mferguson@state.mt.us

Highways & Engineering

Preparation of projects for bidding and coordination of highway construction

Gary Gilmore 444-6206
gagilmore@state.mt.us

Deputy Director

Jim Currie
444-6201
jcurrie@state.mt.us

Legal Services

Tim Reardon
444-6090
treardon@state.mt.us

Environmental Services

Joel Marshik
444-7632
jmarshik@state.mt.us

Maintenance

Maintenance of roadways, equipment, motor pool vehicles, sign making, land mobile communications, road reports

John Blacker 444-6158
jblacker@state.mt.us

Motor Carrier Services

Regulation of commercial motor carrier industry and enforcement of all state and federal commercial and agricultural motor carrier laws, rules and regulations

Drew Livesay 444-7638
dlivesay@state.mt.us

Rail, Transit, & Planning

Provides a broad range of planning functions. These activities assist officials in project selection and provide information for short and long-range construction and grant programs.

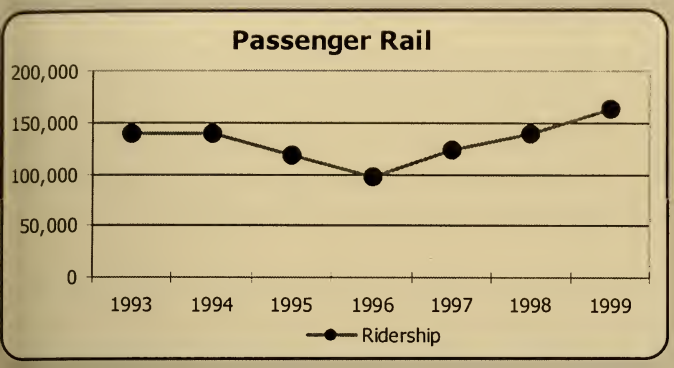
Patricia Saindon 444-3143
psaindon@state.mt.us

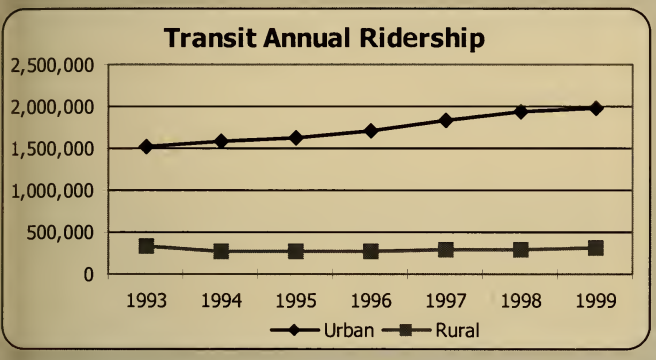
Multimodalism

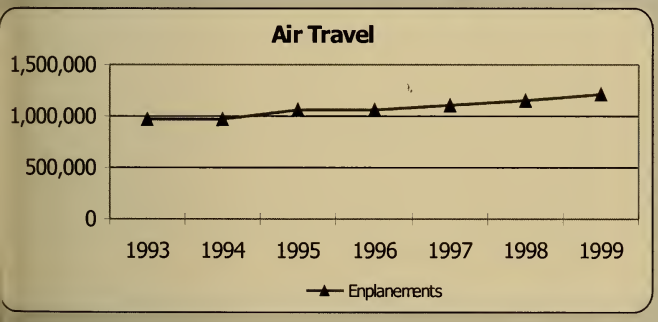
Montana has a statewide multimodal transportation system that includes facilities and services operated by many different units of government and the private sector. Considering the geographical scale and small population of Montana, citizens, businesses, and visitors alike have a high level of mobility.

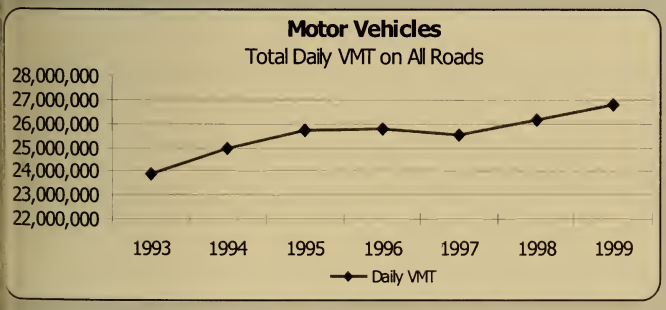
The availability of more than one mode ensures a modal balance. Competition between modes is a distinguishing characteristic of multimodalism. This occurs where the markets or demand for modes overlap and it is possible to make choices or trade-offs between modes. Today, while public transportation is available to most Montanans, there is little competition between modes.

I-15 north of Helena
Photo by Verna Starz


Passenger Rail
200,000
150,000
100,000
50,000
0
1993
1994
1995
1996
1997
1998
1999
Ridership


Transit Annual Ridership
2,500,000
2,000,000
1,500,000
1,000,000
500,000
0
1993
1994
1995
1996
1997
1998
1999
Urban
Rural


Air Travel
1,500,000
1,000,000
500,000
0
1993
1994
1995
1996
1997
1998
1999
Enplanements


Motor Vehicles
Total Daily VMT on All Roads
28,000,000
27,000,000
26,000,000
25,000,000
24,000,000
23,000,000
22,000,000
1993
1994
1995
1996
1997
1998
1999
Daily VMT

HIGHWAYS

Montana is one of the most rural states in th nation in both population and transportation cha acteristics. This means the highway system fu fills a central role in allowing the state to functio politically, economically, and socially.

Roadways connect Montana's communitie and the state to the national and international trans portation systems. The highway system is als the largest single capital investment in the state Proper maintenance and upkeep is critical to pre serving this system.

1999 MDT Inventory

Highway Center-Line Miles (on system)	14,422
Bridges	4,365
Signs and Delineator Posts	300,000
Guardrail & Lineal Feet)	5,654,880
Interstate Rest Areas	34
Right-of-Way Fence (miles)	2,633
Tandem Dump Trucks	332
Single Axle Dump Trucks	303
Self-Propelled Street Sweepers	63
Paint Stripers	12
Graders	87
Loaders	250
Rotary Snow Blowers	38
Maintenance Bulidings	600
State-Owned Airports	14
Non-Directional Beacons	26
Ground to Air Radios	67
Roadway Weather Information System Sites	59

Source: MDT, Maintenance Division - July 2000

Maintenance Responsibilities

System	Center-Line Miles MDT	Local or Other	Total
NHS **	3,880	0	3,880
Primary	2,806	9	2,815
Secondary	2,834	1,852	4,686
Urban	90	273	363
State Highways	1,179	0	1,179
Off-System	0	56,742	56,742
TOTAL	***10,789***	***58,876***	***69,665***

** MDT has maintenance responsibility for 5.022 miles of NHS on US 191 in Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming

Source: MDT, Road Inventory & Mapping Section - July 2000

Snowplows at work near Baker, MT

Montana's Public Road Miles

SYSTEM	Center-line Miles	Lane Miles
NHS	3,875	10,421
PRIMARY	2,815	5,753
SECONDARY	4,686	9,357
URBAN	363	815
TOTAL ON-SYSTEM	11,739	26,346
STATE HIGHWAYS	1,179	2,358
OFF-SYSTEM - RURAL	53,955	107,900
OFF-SYSTEM - MUNICIPAL	2,787	5,517
TOTAL	69,660	142,121

Source: MDT, Road Inventory & Mapping Section - July 2000

1999 Pavement Conditions

	Avg OPI	Avg Ride Index
	1999	1999
Interstate	64	79
Primary	62	75

OPI SCALE

96 - 100	= Excellent
80 - 95	= Good
60 - 79	= Fair
40 - 59	= Poor
0 - 39	= Very Poor

Average Ride Index

>= 80	Good
< 80 >= 60	Fair
< 60	Poor

The use of the OPI (Overall Performance Index) is be phased out and the performance statistics will be reported soon using the ARI (Average Ride Index).

Crashes By Severity

Year	All Crashes	Fatal Crashes	Injury Crashes	Property Damage Crashes	Fatalities	Injuries
1995	20,508	186	6,807	13,515	215	10,25
1996	24,822	177	6,980	17,665	198	10,55
1997	22,619	223	6,951	15,445	265	10,68
1998	22,076	208	6,728	15,132	237	10,07
1999	21,769	194	6,769	14,115	220	10,45
Change/1 yr	-7.20%	0.60%			7.70%	4%
Change/5yr	-2.30%	-1.40%			-4.00%	0.06%

Sleeping Giant near Helena
Photo by Verna Starz

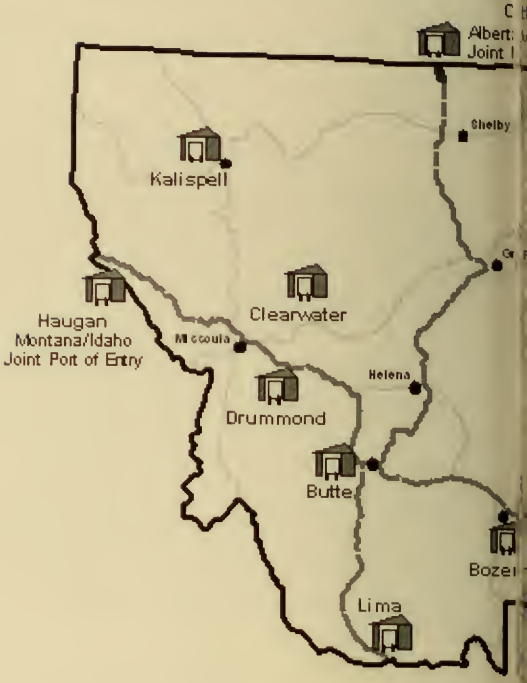
Natural Pier Bridge near Alberton, Missoula County

Number and Condition of Montana's Bridges 1999

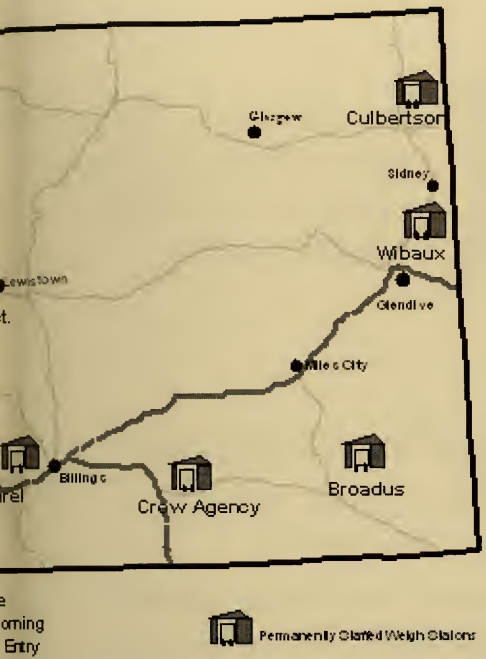
HIGHWAY SYSTEM	TOTAL BRIDGES	AVERAGE AGE	SUBSTANDARD COUNT
Interstate	844	29	88
Non Interstate NHS	510	34	48
Primary	606	48	68
Secondary	536	42	78
Urban	58	35	24
State Off System	266	48	22
Local Off System	1,864	40	597
TOTAL	***4,684***	***39***	***925***

Bridge projects on the interstate, primary, secondary and urban highway systems are nominated by MDT's Bridge Bureau based on the Bridge Mangement System and coordinated with on-going highway projects.

Motor Carrier Servic



igh Station Locations



Map Showing
al and 77 Committed Sites

Ron Mercer, Chairman
2850 Skyway Drive
Helena, MT 59601
406/442-2842

BOARD MEMBERS:

Craig Denney, Park City
Will Metz, Billings
Joann Eisenzimer, Cascade
Bob Palmersheim, Fromberg
Fred Booth, Fort Benton
Douglas Freeman, Billings
Byron Bayers, Twin Bridges
John Rabenberg, Wolf Point

Air transportation plays an important role in Montana because of the state's geography and distance from the nation's economic and population centers. The ability to connect Montana's rural areas to emergency medical facilities, urban centers, and domestic and international destinations through air transportation is vital for Montana's citizens and businesses.

Lincoln Airport

High Volume General Aviation Airports

AIRPORT	Landings & Take-offs
Kalispell	35,000
Sidney	23,600
Glasgow	21,908
Hamilton	20,400
Lewistown	18,100
Plentywood	11,360
Libby	5,000
Ennis	11,050
Miles City	11,038
Stevensville	10,400
Laurel	13,100
Dillon	10,500
Three Forks	11,200
Chinook	8,750
Forsyth	8,800
Havre	9,100
Gardiner	8,900
TOTAL	***238,206***

Landings and takeoffs based on most current 5010 inspection year 1998-1999.

Does **not** include Essential Air Service Landings and Take Offs

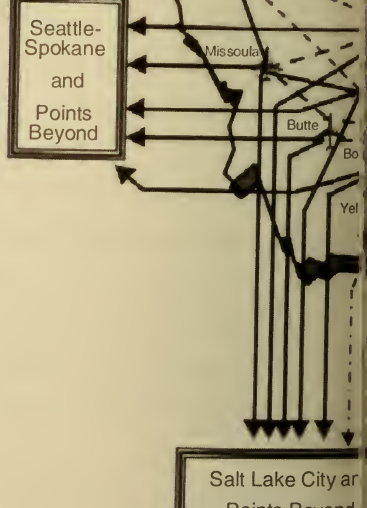
Source: TranPlan 21 Annual Report July 2000.

Essential Air Service Airports

AIRPORT	Enplanements 1998	Enplanements 1,999	Air Freight (tons) 1998*	Air Freight (tons) 1999
Glasgow	3,394	4,001	1.6	1.1
Glendive	1,933	2,327	0.9	0.14
Havre	2,497	2,692	0.9	2.1
Lewistown	1,739	2,145	0.9	0.11
Miles City	2,377	2,934	1	0.04
Sidney	4,668	5,002	1.1	0.4
Wolf Point	2,880	3,036	0.9	0.5
TOTAL	***19,488***	***22,137***	***7.3***	***4.3***

Source: Montana Airport Authorities & Managers - 1999
Note: The essential air freight numbers reported to MDT are estimates and may be the reason for any dramatic change.

SCHEDULED COMMERCIAL



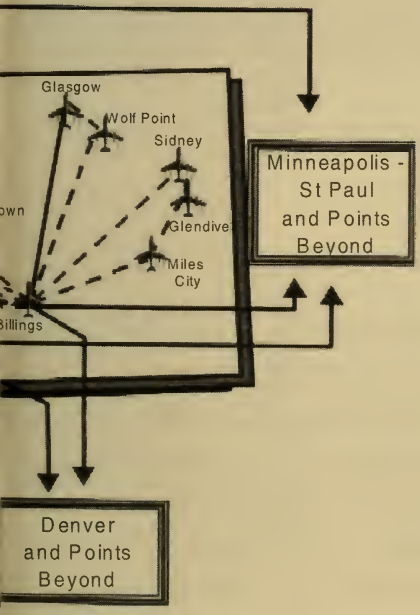
Note: Only Non-stop service dep

Primary Commercial Service Airports

AIRPORT	Enplanements 1998	Enplanements 1999	Air Freight (tons) 1998	Air Freight (tons) 1999
Billings	327,304	339,855	19,606	26,341
Bozeman	217,308	221,997	386	887
Butte	44,747	49,133	100	107
Great Falls	126,216	136,066	852	N/A
Helena	76,683	79,862	667	584
Kalispell	133,615	146,770	41	41
Missoula	202,277	221,387	N/A	1,275
TOTAL	***1,128,150***	***1,195,070***	***21,652***	***29,235***

Source: Montana Airport Authorities & Managers - 1999

NSPORTATION IN MONTANA



Rail System

Northern Pacific Railroad, Marent Gulch Trestle near Missoula, MT circa 1883.
Photo Courtesy of Montana Historical Society.

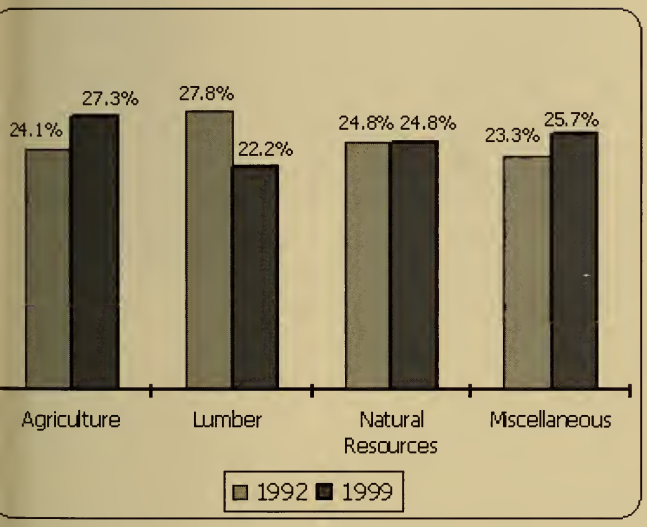
Montana's rail system is a key element of th state's overall transportation network. The sy tem includes just under 3,500 miles of track. A though this mileage has declined over the pa decade, the volume of freight shipped by rail ha remained steady. Passenger rail service i Montana is provided by Amtrak across the H Line.

ail Freight Shipment by Commodity riginating and Terminating Carloads

	1997	1999	Change
al	51.6%	40.6%	9.2% -
riculture and related	11.8%	26.2%	122% +
mber and related	12.1%	21.5%	78% +
tural Resource and related	9.0%	15.3%	70% +
scellaneous	15.5%	0.0%	

urce: MDT TranPlan21 1999 Annual Report

Total Originating and Terminating Non-Coal Freight



Source: MDT & Rail Operators, Annual Reports

Amtrak Ridership

Station	1999
Browning	1,953
Belton	4,765
Cut Bank	2,626
Essex	4,344
Glasgow	7,024
Glacier Park	17,073
Havre	18,073
Libby	6,729
Malta	3,850
Shelby	18,502
Whitefish	68,756
Wolf Point	9,717
TOTALS	*163,412*

Source: TranPlan 21 December 1999

Elliston, MT

1993 Distribution of Freight Shipments by Mode

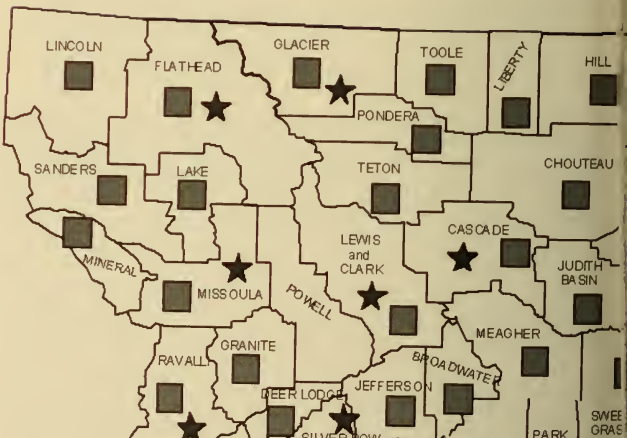
MODE	VALUE	TONS	TONS-MILES
Highway	68.9%	35.3%	12.0%
Rail	22.4%	52.2%	87.0%
Other (pipeline, air)	8.7%	12.5%	1.0%

Source: 1993 Commodity Flow Survey, TC92-CF-27, Bureau of the Census, US Dept of Commerce. No current data available.

Transit and Bicycle-Pedestrian

Mountain Line Transit, Miss

Local Transit Servic

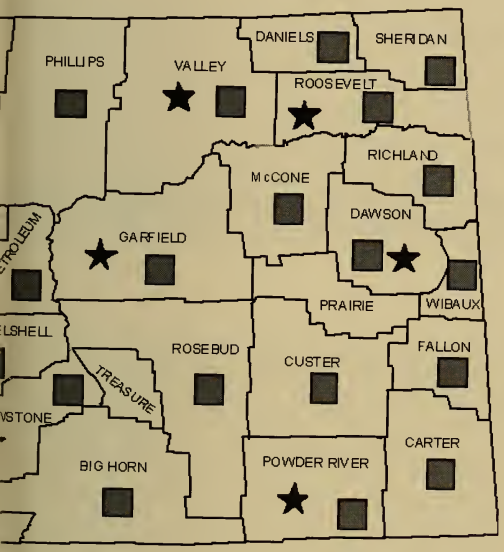


Transit & Bicycle-Pedestrian

Passenger transportation in Montana includes urn and rural transit, demand responsive transit for e elderly and persons with disabilities, intercity bus, d vanpooling. These services are provided by pubagencies, not-for profit organizations, and the prite sector.

Transit service is vital to Montana residents who not have access to a car. Currently, it performs a cietal role providing basic mobility for residents of ost Montana counties.

Pedestrian and bicycle facilities also enhance the ultimodalism choices, connectivity, and safety of nsportation systems. Many of those who rely on blic transportation also rely on pedestrian and bicle facilities to get them to their final destination.



Transit & Bicycle-Pedestrian

Mountain Line Transit, Miss

1999 Annual Transit System Ridership

AGENCY	1999
Eagle Transit-Kalispell	47,0(
Blackfeet Transit-Browning	12,2
Butte-Silver Bow Transit-Butte	94,7
*Dawson County Transit-Glendive	N/
Helena Dial-a-Ride-Helena	39,31
Fergus County Council on Aging-Lewistown	21,42
Fort Peck Transportation System-Poplar	54,62
(Big Dry Transit)-Jordan	3,36
Powder River County Trans. System-Broadus	3,01
*Ravalli County Transit - Hamilton	N/
Valley Co. Transit-Glasgow	35,21
TOTAL	***310,92***

* These transit systems are new grant recipients who have recently become general public providers, therefore no ridersh counts are available for 1999.

Urban System Ridership

	1999
Great Falls Transit District	561,092
Metropolitan Transit-Billings	745,296
Mountain Line Transit-Missoula	665,391
Total	***1,971,779***

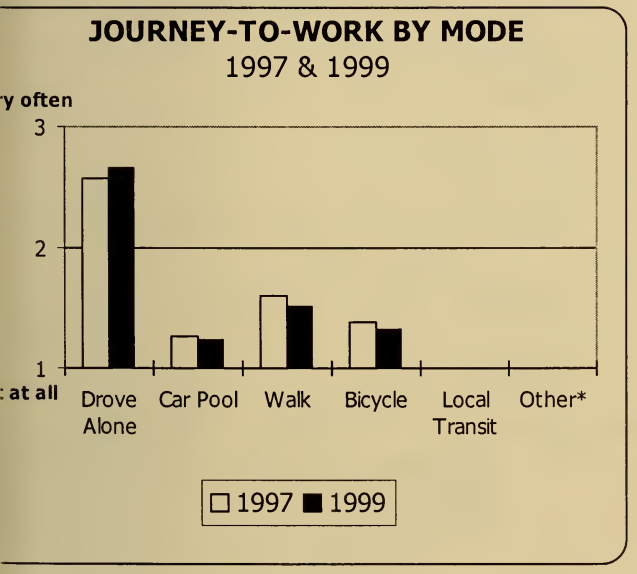
Source: MDT Transit Section,PublicTransportation Managemer System1999 Report

Motor Vehicle Collisions with Bicyclists

Year	Crashes	% of All Crashes	% of All Fatal Crashes	Fatalities	Injuries
1995	197	1.00%	0.50%	1	203
1996	180	0.70%	1.10%	2	158
1997	224	1.00%	0.40%	1	202
1998	198	0.90%	0.40%	1	183
1999	177	0.84%	1.36%	3	183
Totals	**976**	**0.88%**	**0.75%**	**8**	**929**

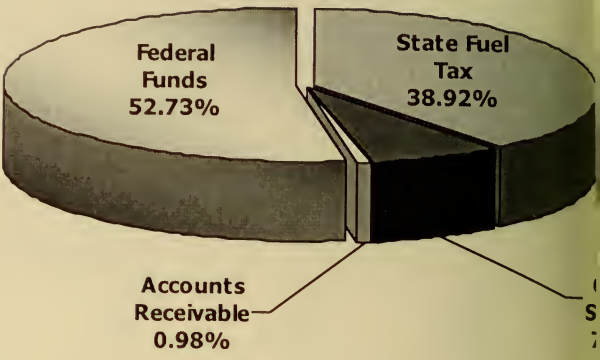
Motor Vehicle Collisions with Pedestrians

Year	Crashes	% of All Crashes	% of All Fatal Crashes	Fatalities	Injuries
1995	185	0.90%	6.50%	12	196
1996	180	0.70%	7.30%	13	178
1997	167	0.70%	4.00%	9	146
1998	166	0.80%	6.30%	13	148
1999	153	0.70%	3.10%	7	139
Yr Totals	**851**	**0.76%**	**5.44%**	**54**	**807**



urce: MDT Traffic Safety Bureau, Traffic Safety Problem
ntification Paper 1999

FY 2000
Highway Program Revenue Source



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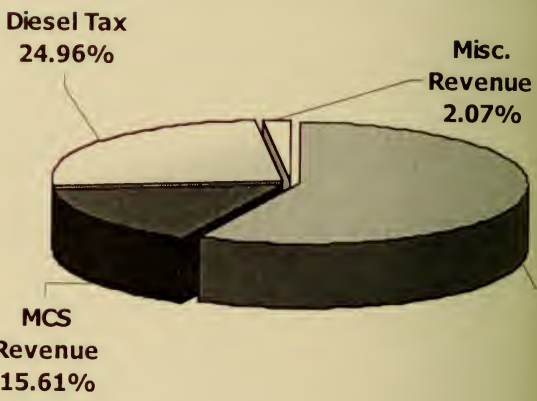
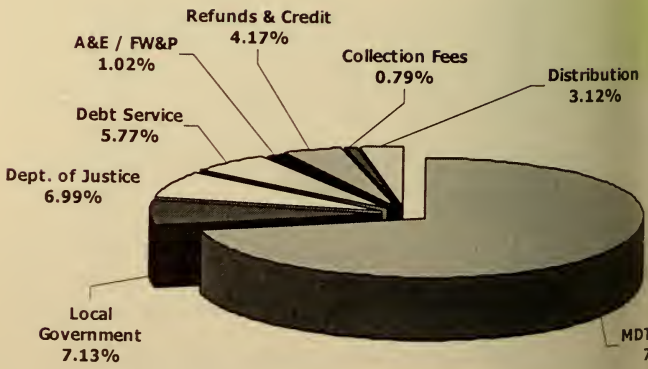
State Fuel Tax & GVW Revenue

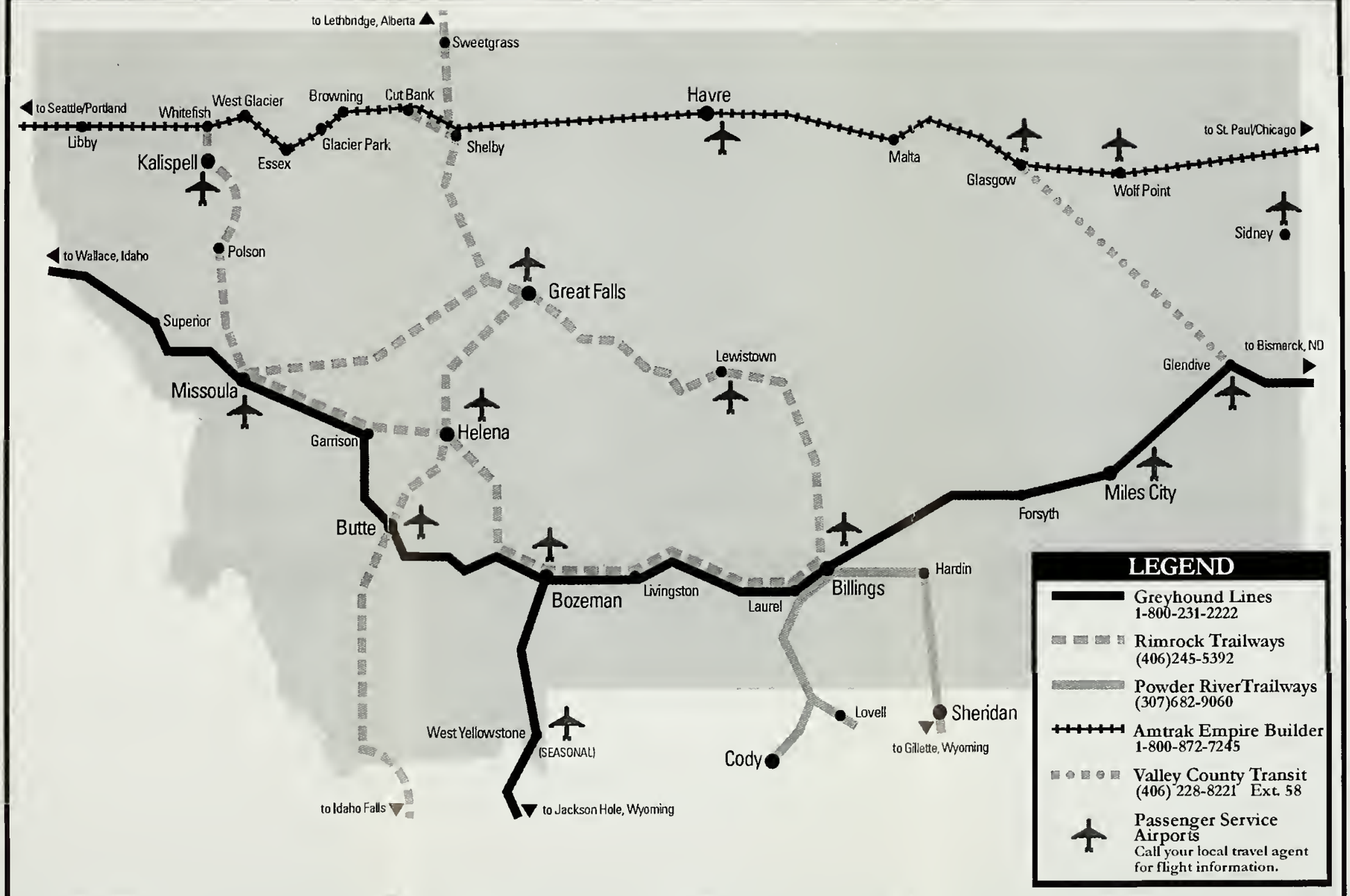


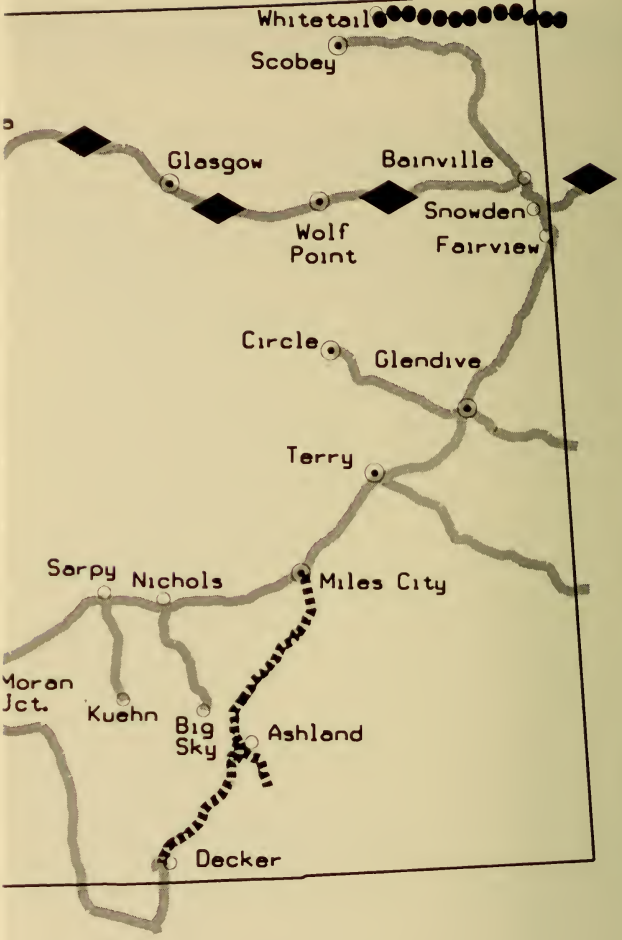
FY 2000
State Fuel Tax Revenues and Uses



Source: 2000 FYE SBAS 613 Report

INTERCITY PASSENGER TRANSPORTATION IN MONTANA



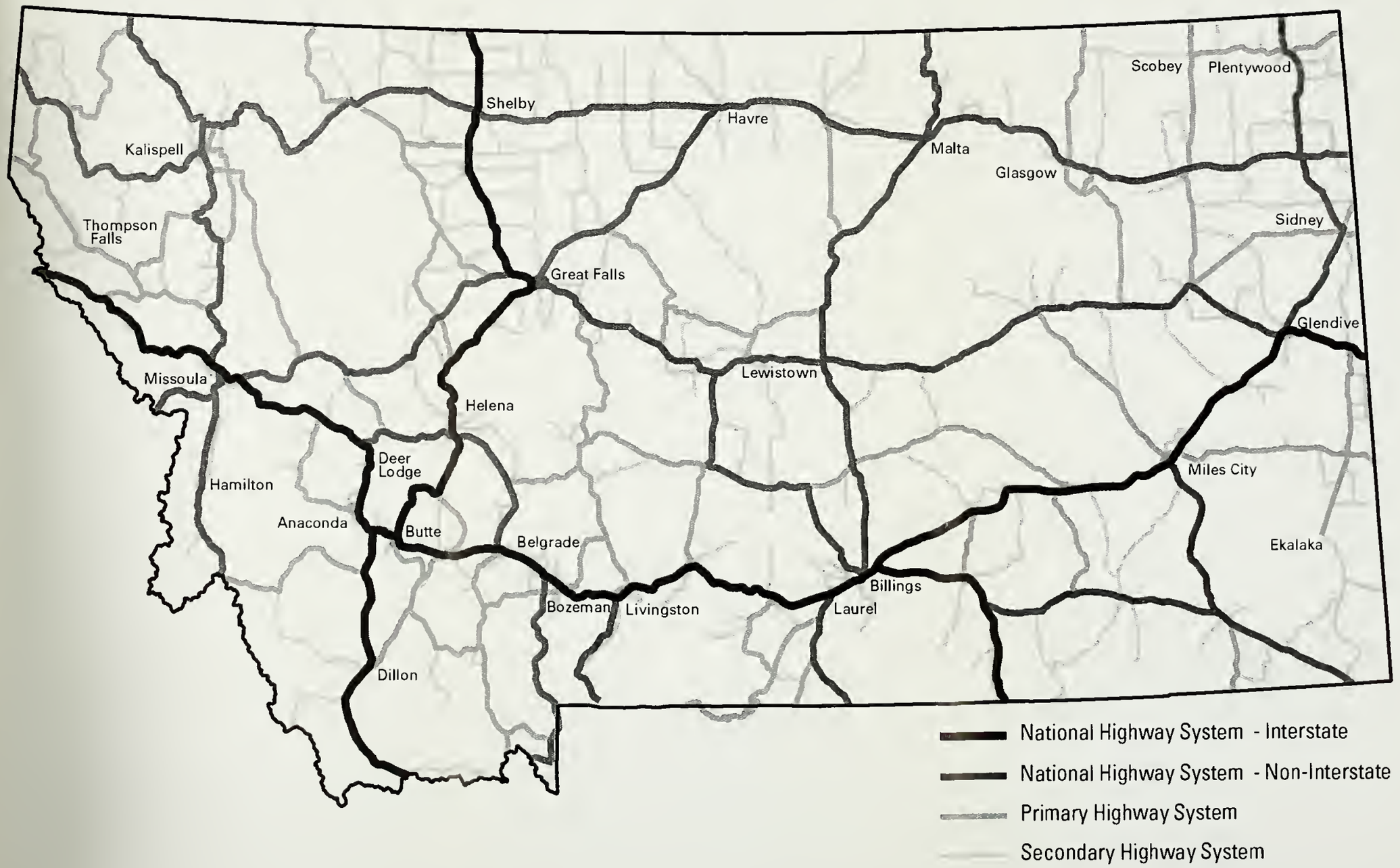


ana's Rail System

Prepared by:

a Department of Transportation
ıortation Planning Division

Montana's Highway System



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